

EVANGELISM IN EVERY WORK

Acts 5:42-6:4

INTRODUCTION

1. The late Clayton Pepper in his work, Church Growth Today, p. 39 had a wonderful synopsis of the church of the First Century:
 - a. They had an “every creature” concept of evangelism and teaching (**Mark 16:15**).
 - b. They taught daily and had additions daily (**Acts 2:47; 5:42; 20:31**).
 - c. They taught publicly and from house to house (**Acts 5:42; 20:20**).
 - d. They had an “every member” evangelism concept (**Acts 5:42; 8:4; 2 Tim. 2:2,24; Heb. 5:12**).
 - e. Their program of edification resulted in multiplication (**Acts 9:31**).
 - f. The Apostles put the “**ministry of the word**” first (**Acts 6:1-4**).
 - g. They had a passion for souls (**Rom. 9:1-3; 10:1; Acts 21:13**).
 - h. They preached the gospel to every creature (**Rom. 10:18; Col. 1:23**).
 - i. Sent faithful brethren into other works (**Acts 13:1-4**).
2. The church of Christ has longed desired to restore New Testament Christianity in doctrine and in practice; but friends, have we restored the passion of evangelism?
 - a. The command today is still the same as then (**Mt. 28:18-20; Mk.16:15-16; Lk. 24:44-49; Jn. 20:21-23**).
 - b. The church proclaimed the gospel to the world in the first century.
 1. As noted earlier, the Lord’s church in the first century had an “every member” evangelism concept (**Acts 5:42; 8:4; 2 Tim. 2:2,24; Heb. 5:12**).
 2. The Jerusalem church sent Barnabas to Antioch (**Acts 11:22**).
 3. The Antioch church sent out Saul and Barnabas (**Acts 13:2-4**).
 4. The faith of the church at Rome was “**spoken of throughout the whole world**” (**Rom. 1:8**).
 5. The church at Thessalonica “**sounded out the word of the Lord**” in Macedonia and Achaia (**1 Th. 1:8**).
 6. By A.D. 62 the gospel had spread to the whole world (**Col. 1:23**).
3. Friends, we must be reminded and refreshed that our purpose is evangelism—nothing has changed—making the gospel known to a lost and dying world.
4. However, let us also examine with such as the case, that every effort within the church must aim toward evangelism—thus our subject “Evangelism in Every Work.”

Thesis: For the church to renew itself in evangelism in every work—all that we do should have an evangelistic thrust therein.

I. EVANGELISM IN OUR EDUCATION.

- a. The Great Commission texts instruct us to teach. We cannot teach if we do not learn.
- b. **Acts 20:28**, “**Therefore take heed to yourselves and to all the flock, among which the Holy Spirit has made you overseers, to shepherd the church of God which He purchased with His own blood.**” To shepherd or feed, instruct and teach.
- c. **2 Tim. 2:2**, “**And the things that you have heard from me among many witnesses, commit these to faithful men who will be able to teach others also.**”
- d. **Titus 2:1-8** expresses instruction to go onward—aged women to teach the younger women; aged men the younger men.
- e. **APP:**
 1. Each teacher looks upon his/her class as a mission field. Personal visiting with studies in homes.
 2. Vacation Bible Schools are not to be end that justifies the means but following up with our guest with personal visiting.
 3. Classes on evangelism with young and old.
 4. Grow the Bible School—when the Bible school grows, worship attendance grows, the church grows—Evangelism!

II. EVANGELISM IN OUR EDIFICATION.

- a. “The act of building; the promotion of spiritual growth by teaching, by example and suggesting such spiritual progress as the result of patient labor.” This is a word exclusively to the faithful.
- b. Edification results in growth:
 1. **Acts 9:31**, *“Then the churches throughout all Judea, Galilee, and Samaria had peace and were edified. And walking in the fear of the Lord and in the comfort of the Holy Spirit, they were multiplied.”*
 2. This was on the heels of the conversion of Saul! Evangelism!
- c. Edification results in peace. **Rom. 14:19**, *“Therefore let us pursue the things which make for peace and the things by which one may edify another.”*
- d. Edification results in love. **Eph. 4:15-16**, *“But, speaking the truth in love, may grow up in all things into Him who is the head—Christ—from whom the whole body, joined and knit together by what every joint supplies, according to the effective working by which every part does its share, causes growth of the body for the edifying of itself in love.”*
- e. **APP**: Building...promotion...progress—remember, others join in as well. The edification of the new Christian through OBSERVE and telling others—Evangelism!

III. EVANGELISM IN OUR BENEVOLENCE.

- a. We note a labor in the church is benevolence (**Gal. 6:9; Jas. 1:27; 1 Tim. 5**), but is our benevolence aiming toward evangelism?
- b. Jesus’ earthly ministry met the physical needs aiming toward the spiritual (**Jn. 6**).
- c. **Acts 2:42-47**, *“42 And they continued steadfastly in the apostles’ doctrine and fellowship, in the breaking of bread, and in prayers. 43 Then fear came upon every soul, and many wonders and signs were done through the apostles. 44 Now all who believed were together, and had all things in common, 45 and sold their possessions and goods, and divided them among all, as anyone had need. 46 So continuing daily with one accord in the temple, and breaking bread from house to house, they ate their food with gladness and simplicity of heart, 47 praising God and having favor with all the people. And the Lord added to the church daily those who were being saved.”*
- d. **Acts 6:1-7**, *“Now in those days, when the number of the disciples was multiplying, there arose a complaint against the Hebrews by the Hellenists, because their widows were neglected in the daily distribution. 2 Then the twelve summoned the multitude of the disciples and said, “It is not desirable that we should leave the word of God and serve tables. 3 Therefore, brethren, seek out from among you seven men of good reputation, full of the Holy Spirit and wisdom, whom we may appoint over this business; 4 but we will give ourselves continually to prayer and to the ministry of the word.” 5 And the saying pleased the whole multitude. And they chose Stephen, a man full of faith and the Holy Spirit, and Philip, Prochorus, Nicanor, Timon, Parmenas, and Nicolas, a proselyte from Antioch, 6 whom they set before the apostles; and when they had prayed, they laid hands on them. 7 Then the word of God spread, and the number of the disciples multiplied greatly in Jerusalem, and a great many of the priests were obedient to the faith.”*
- e. **APP**: Friends, let us renew—are we moving folks toward the spiritual needs from the physical needs? Are we following up? Are we seeking that open door?

CONCLUSION

1. Evangelism permeating every work—with an evangelistic thrust. It will enhance every work and every work enhancing evangelism. The Saving of souls.
2. The saving of your soul is most important. Will you obey God’s plan of salvation or dear erring child, do you need to come home?

